

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, GW, XJ

SUBJ: FRG PARTICIPATION IN CLUB DES AMIS DU SAHEL

REF: (A) BONN 7465, (B) BONN 5831

1. EMBOFF TALKED TO SCHMID, OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR SAHEL, TO FOLLOW UP ON AA/AFR NORTH'S VISIT. HE COMMENTED THAT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE HE COULD NOT SPEND MORE TIME WITH NORTH DUE TO SENGHOR'S VISIT, BUT HE HAD NOT FORESEEN THE NECESSITY OF GERMAN-SENEGALESE NEGOTIATIONS ON THAT DAY. SCHMID CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT FRG POLICY ON CLUB PARTICIPATION WAS CLEARLY STATED BY STATE SECRETARY KOLLATZ.

2. SCHMID QUESTIONED THE LINKAGE BETWEEN GERMAN PARTICIPATION IN THE CLUB, CLUB SUCCESS, AND CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION OF U.S. FUNDS FOR THE SAHEL. HE EMPHASIZED GERMAN WILLINGNESS TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO COORDINATE BILATERAL AID TO THE SAHEL AND HE POINTED TO THE OMVS AND OTHER LARGE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS AS OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE U.S. TO JOIN EFFECTIVELY IN CONCRETE, MULTILATERAL PROJECTS WHICH HAVE FINANCING GAPS. SCHMID OFFERED TO MEET IN BONN AT ANY

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TIME WITH U.S. AID WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS IN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS TO FURTHER THIS GOAL OF COORDINATION AND HE COMMENTED THAT SUCH CONSULTATIONS COULD NEVER BE REPLACED BY CLUB MEETINGS.

3. SCHMID ALSO RAISED THE "CONFERENCE TOURISM" OBJECTION TO THE CLUB AGAIN AND COMMENTED THAT THE

ECONCOOPMIN HAD NOTHING COMPARABLE TO US AID MISSIONS IN THE SAHEL. HE MENTIONED THAT THE FRG HAS ONLY THREE PEOPLE RUNNING ITS AID PROGRAM IN NIGER AND COULD NOT AFFORD TO PUT DEMANDS ON STAFF TIME LIGHTLY.

4. QUESTIONED ABOUT THE AGRICULTURAL FOCUS OF FRG AID PROGRAMS, SCHMID STATED THAT GERMAN AID IS OVERWHELMINGLY FOCUSED ON NUTRITIONAL MAINTENANCE AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN A BROAD SENSE. SCHMID BELIEVES THAT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (SUCH AS DAMS, ROADS) MUST BE CONSIDERED "AGRICULTURALLY FOCUSED" SINCE INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION DEPENDS ON THESE PROJECTS. SOME FRG AID, HOWEVER, IS TARGETED TO HANDICRAFT INDUSTRY PROMOTION AND FRG IS ALSO PARTICIPATING IN A MAJOR MINERAL EXPLOITATION PROJECT IN UPPER VOLTA. HOWEVER, OVERALL FOCUS REMAINS AGRICULTURAL.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES SCHMID'S OFFER TO CONSULT ON BILATERAL AID TO THE SAHEL SHOULD BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY U.S. AID. GERMAN PROBLEMS WITH PARTICIPATION IN THE CLUB (AS REPORTED REFTELS AND HERE) INCREASINGLY APPEAR TO BE DEEPLY ROOTED AND NOT BASED ON AN EASILY RECTIFIED MISUNDERSTANDING. ONLY A PATIENT EFFORT TO TAKE THE TIME TO ACTIVELY COORDINATE OUR AID TO THE SAHEL WITH THE GERMANS CAN SLOWLY INTEGRATE THE FRG INTO MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE CLUB. STOESEL

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